(c) whether it is also a fact that no fund has been allotted for the purpose of Salem Division; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) and (b) The demand for creation of a new division at Salem has been agreed to in principle with a view to improve efficiency. However, the division has not yet started functioning, as its detailed territorial jurisdiction has not yet been finalized. A Project Report on the subject has been received from Southern Railway and the same is under examination.

(c) and (d) No funds have been allocated for the proposed Salem Division as its detailed territorial jurisdiction has not yet been finalized.

Development of Jajpur-Keonjhar road railway station

*87. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal has been made by the Finance Minister of Orissa to develop the Jajpur-Keonjhar Road railway station taking into account Kalinga Nagar an industrial hub in the making;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the action plan of Government to revamp the above station to cater to the needs of passengers and transporters in view of fast industrialization of this area?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Hon'ble Finance Minister of Orissa has desired that Jajpur-Keonjhar Road Railway Station be modernized and developed to cater to provide quicker and better services to the passengers and transporters.

(c) Following works have been sanctioned at Jajpur-Keonjhar Road Railway Station:

(1) Extension of Platforms for 24/26 coaches along with raising of platform to high level.

(2) Extension of Spur No. 2 of Jajpur-Keonjhar Road to handle full rake loading.

(3) Development of circulating area and lighting facility of goods shed.

(4) Provision of crossover at Howrah end to have direct access for up Main line with signalled entry and dispatch for goods shed.

Permission for duty free import of wheat

†*88. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given permission to private sector for duty free import of wheat from companies of USA;

(b) if so, the expected price of this imported wheat per quintal;

(c) whether Government have given permission to restrict the excess quantity of weeds and insecticides and to relax quality standard in the imported wheat; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Government has permitted import of wheat under Open General License (OGL) at reduced duty import duty of 5% till 31.12.2006, which would allow both private and public sector companies to import wheat from any foreign suppliers including US companies.

(b) As per current market trends the Cost and Freight (C&F) prices of imported wheat are expected to be in the range of US $ 17.5 to 21.0/per Quintal, depending upon the variety of wheat and the country of origin.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The details are given in the enclosed Statement.

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†Original notice of Question was received in Hindi.